

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Oberspreewerk Situation Report

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- 25X1X 1. The Oberspreewerk's production program for 1948 covers eighty separate projects. The projects enumerated in the October 1947 program have been taken over into the new one. The 1948 budget of the Oberspreewerk provides for an expenditure of 4½ million RM. This sum is expected to finance plant expansion, project expenses, and all other costs. The German administration of the Oberspreewerk considers the appropriation too small and does not expect it to cover the various projects which have been assigned to it. The 1947 budget called for 7½ million RM.
2. The priorities assigned to Oberspreewerk projects have changed radically since 1947. The Soviet AG's have ten separate degrees of priority. During 1947, all work carried out at the Oberspreewerk was in Category I. Of the eighty projects which are to be completed during 1948, however, only six carry first priority.
3. The Russians have announced that they will award a prize to the institute developing the most efficient field intensity meter. A Russian research establishment is competing with the Oberspreewerk for the award, which will consist of large sums of money which will be given to all personnel, including mechanics, who are responsible for the development of the winning device. Other prizes will be awarded upon the successful and timely completion of projects within the priority ranges of one to three.
4. The Oberspreewerk's vacuum tube shops are currently building the following American-type tubes:

Series	Description	Unit Price		1948 Production Quota
		Jan. '47	Jan. '48	
6 AC 7	High-gain high-frequency pentode	RM 250	RM 41	30,000
6 AG 7	Television amplifier pentode	250	47	15,000
6 J 6	Double triode, 80 cm.*	250	35	1,000
5 D 21	Impulse amplifier tube, newly developed	1,000	550	1,000

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Series	Description	Unit Price		1948 Production Quota
		Jan. '47	Jan. '48	
3 DF 1	Polar coordinating oscillograph tube	RM 400	RM 170	1,000
5 FP 7	Television tube, newly developed	400	170	1,000
329 B	Impulse-amplifying tube, 1.2 meters	600	310	1,000
717 A	High-frequency amplifier pentode	-	-	-
726 A	Metal clystron, 9 cm.	500	500	1,000

(*Production of this tube has been halted pending improvements.)

The radical price reductions between January 1947 and January 1948 are the result of improved mass production methods. The rate of rejection of faulty tubes has fallen from 50% to 30%. The tubes all carry the Oberspreewerk trademark and Russian nameplate data.

5. The Oberspreewerk is suffering from a shortage of materials, especially of tungsten and molybdenum. Another difficulty lies in the fact that the Oberspreewerk's wire shop is unable to prepare wires of the required delicacy for use in the tubes. The administration feels that these shortages will result in a general failure to meet production quotas.
6. Increasing difficulties have been encountered in the production of electrical parts and other components, e.g., electrolytic condensers, resistors, luminous phosphorus. Especially critical is the situation regarding spectral analyzers, and production deadlines have had to be extended six weeks. Russian tubes for the analyzers were found to be inadequate (poor vacuum, insufficiently high gain). American-type tubes will be procured from Moscow to replace those of Russian design.
7. Fine measuring instruments of the type required by the Oberspreewerk can only be obtained through barter arrangements with Gossen & Co. and the Georg Friedrich Hofmann GmbH für Apparatebau, both situated in Erlangen, Bavaria. The physicist, Gatte, handles the liaison with the Erlangen firms. If these instrument deliveries from the U. S. Zone were ever cut off, the successful completion of many of the most important Oberspreewerk projects would be jeopardized.
8. The German management of the Oberspreewerk feels that the 1948 production quotas cannot be met unless the present staff of 150 technicians and skilled mechanics is virtually doubled. The drafting of further personnel from the Russian Zone has been contemplated, but the Soviet authorities claim that the ultimate fate or disposition of the Oberspreewerk must be definitely determined before such a step can be taken.
9. Although all German translators and interpreters at the Oberspreewerk were replaced by Russians during the past winter, the policy was reversed recently when the Russians received orders to return to the USSR before 28 March 1948. The German replacements were recruited under very attractive terms: Ration Card I, special supplementary rations, living allowances, etc. The chief interpreter is a graduate engineer named Rickermann who completed his studies in Russia and resided there until 1945. He is between thirty-seven and forty years of age.

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10. Melchert, chief of the section for the construction of electric furnaces (up to 4,000°C) and former head of the electrical division, and Nippe, chief of the shipping office, have been arrested. They were charged with the theft of small smelting ovens, barium oxide, and quicksilver. Seventy-five kilograms of the latter were stolen.
11. Dr. Beckmann, former technical director of the Oberspreewerk, has gone to the United Kingdom. He is a specialist on piezo-electricity and detectors, and was formerly engaged with Dr. Bausenhart (who also left the Oberspreewerk under mysterious circumstances) in the development of apparatus for generating millimeter waves.
12. The former chief of the section for chemical technology, Wagner, who moved to The Netherlands, has been replaced by one Schubert, a veteran Communist who recently returned to Germany from a British PW camp. Since Schubert's technical qualifications are not of the highest order, Dr. Gemsa has been appointed to advise him on technical matters. Frenz, a talented assistant in the section for chemical technology, was also replaced by an ill-qualified Communist--one Titz, a former Siemens-Halske engineer.
13. Several Thuringian plants which were formerly in close technical contact with the Oberspreewerk have recently been closed. The former Telefunken works at Thalheim and the Siemens plant at Radeberg (which constructed radar equipment) have been dismantled. The S. Koch factory at Steinbach, a part of the Soviet AG system, is also in the process of dismantlement. This plant produced luminous phosphorus for oscillographs and Braun tubes. When the personnel of the Koch installation learned that they would be sent to Russia, they fled in a body to the western zones. Four Oberspreewerk technicians have been sent to Steinbach to study the possibilities of constructing a plant for the production of luminous phosphorus on the Oberspreewerk premises. Dr. Hachenberg is in charge of this project.

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